GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3541
ANSWERED ON:07.04.2003
REGULATION ON USE OF GROUND WATER
PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to regulate utilization of ground water through framing of rules and regulations;

(b) if so, the complete details thereof;

(c) whether a model Ground Water Regulation Bill was circulated to all the States/Union Territories for adoption some years ago; and

(d) if so, the response of the State Government/Union Territories on the Bill?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI)

(a)&(b) Water being a State subject, suitable legislation to regulate utilisation of ground water has to be enacted by the State Governments/Union Territories. However, in pursuance of orders of Supreme Court of India, the CentralGovernment has constituted the Central Ground Water Authority under Environment (Protection)Act, 1986 to regulate and control, management and development of ground water in the country and to issue necessary regulatory directions for this purpose.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Central Government has circulateda Model Bill to regulate and control the development of ground water to all State Governments/Union Territories in 1970 and re- circulated it in 1992 and again in 1996 for adoption.

(d) So far the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Tamil Nadu,Kerala and Union Territory of Lakshadweep have enacted legislation on the lines of Model Bill and State Governments/Union Territories of Assam, Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh,Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal,NCTof Delhi, Pondicherry and Daman & Diu have initiated action in this direction.